

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application. Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 15 are independent claims. Claims 2-14, 19, 20, 22, and 25 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Claims 16-18, 21, 23, and 24 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 15.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 15 and 16, and 19 have been amended by way of this reply. Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 15, 16, and 19 have been amended to conform the claims to U.S. practice. Further, claims 1 and 15 have been amended to more precisely recite the present invention. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 15 can be found, for example, in Fig. 1 and paragraph [0028] of the present application. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-15 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, because of the line “nozzle insert is or can be inserted” in independent claims 1 and 15. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to say “nozzle insert is inserted.” Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7, 12, 13, and 15-25 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,402,052 (“Murawa”). Claims 1 and 15 have been amended by way of this reply. To the extent that the rejection may still apply, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 15 as amended requires, in part, “the valve controls liquid flow through the at least two inlets.”

Murawa discloses a pressure sensitive windshield washer nozzle. With reference to the nozzle embodiment shown in Figure 3 in Murawa, the apparatus has two high pressure flow control valves 110, 112. One high pressure flow control valve 110 controls liquid flow through one flow path 122a, while the other high pressure flow control valve 112 controls liquid flow through the other flow path 122b. Flow paths 122a and 122b have respective, separate fluid input ports 108a and 108b. Thus, neither of the high pressure flow control valves 110, 112 controls fluid flow through at least two inlets, as required by the claims.

Thus, claims 1 and 15 are patentable over Murawa, at least for the above reasons. Claims 2-7, 19, 20, 22, and 25 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and claims 16-18, 21, 23, and 24 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, from claim 15. Thus, claims 2-7, 12, 13, and 16-25 are patentable over Murawa, at least for the same reasons as claims 1 and 15. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8-10 and 14 of the present application were rejected under U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Murawa in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0234303 (“Berning”). Claim 1, from which claims 8-10 and 14 depend, has been amended. To the extent that the rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As explained above, claim 1 is patentable over Murawa. Berning discloses a fluidic insert that receives fluid under pressure from a fluid inlet tube and generates a specified spatial distribution of the fluid exiting the insert. Berning fails to provide that which Murawa lacks with respect to claim 1. Specifically, Berning neither shows nor suggests a valve which controls liquid flow through at least two inlets, as required by claim 1.

In view of the above, Murawa and Berning, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Murawa and Berning, at least for the above reasons. Claims 8-10 and 14 are dependent from claim 1. Thus, claims 8-10 and 14 are patentable over Murawa and Berning, at least for the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 of the present application was rejected under U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Murawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,082,636 (“Yoshida”). Claim 1, from which claim 11 depends, has been amended. To the extent that the rejection applies to the amended claim, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As explained above, claim 1 is patentable over Murawa. Yoshida discloses a washer nozzle assembly having an upper lip portion defining a nozzle opening extending further

forward than the lower lip portion so that the part of the washer liquid directed upward is blocked by the longer upper lip portion. Yoshida fails to provide that which Murawa lacks with respect to claim 1. Specifically, Yoshida neither shows nor suggests a valve which controls liquid flow through at least two inlets, as required by claim 1.

In view of the above, Murawa and Yoshida, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Murawa and Yoshida, at least for the above reasons. Claim 11 is dependent from claim 1. Thus, claim 11 is patentable over Murawa and Yoshida, at least for the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 17102/012001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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